

ANG

**Bayan**

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas  
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

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## Prepare for the JMC's implementation

**T**he Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), which is tasked to oversee the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) has held its initial meeting.

The JMC's formation and operationalization are beneficial to the people and the revolution especially in the face of mounting cases of fascist abuses attendant to the intensification of the "war against terrorism." The JMC is mandated to receive and investigate complaints regarding violations of the CARHRIHL.

The CARHRIHL is an important supplement to existing standards of respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. It encompasses the entire range of human rights, from civil and political rights to economic, social and cultural rights. It is premised on the Filipino people's historical and concrete experiences and on the obtaining human rights situation in the country.

The CARHRIHL stands contrary to the current conduct of the state's counterrevolutionary war, which knows no law.

The CARHRIHL can help in terms of providing added guidance and reminders to the revolutionary forces on how to properly conduct themselves vis a vis the masses and the enemy. In observing the CARHRIHL, the Party and the NPA can better show that they are principled, disciplined and propeople revolutionary organizations. They can belie the "ter-

rorist" label that US imperialism and the puppet regime have tagged on the Party and the NPA. More than this, they can bring to the fore the fascism, oppressiveness and abusiveness of the enemy's armed forces.

Through our conduct of education and propaganda work among the people on the CARHRIHL, we arm them with additional knowledge on their rights and on what they must do in the face of enemy suppression and violations.

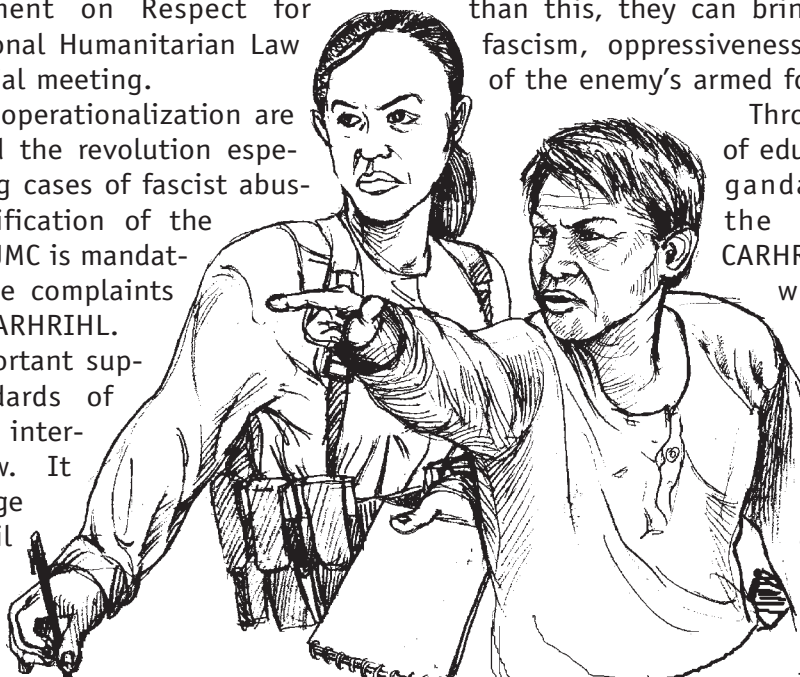
The AFP has expressed its strong objection to the CARHRIHL

and cannot be expected to

seriously propagate the agreement among its ranks and those of the PNP and CAGU. But let us persist in propagating it among them, especially among junior officers and rank-and-file soldiers in order to encourage them to respect its provisions.

The JMC is a far better venue to receive complaints on military abuses compared to the Commission on Human Rights, which merely serves the GRP. Exposing cases before the JMC may deter excessive abuses and violations by the enemy.

We must teach the revolutionary forces, the mass



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base, our allies and the people about what specific measures to take to maximize the JMC.

We must establish and strengthen a broad machinery and a rapid system by which we could monitor, document, report and expose to the public, violations perpetrated by the AFP, PNP, CAFGU and other enemy forces.

Along with the information coursed through the machinery of legal organizations, the concerned Party committees and NPA commands must also closely monitor issues and cases raised on various levels. We must strengthen the system of reporting and monitoring clashes and military incidents from NPA units and localities to the provincial and regional up to the national level. It is the responsibility of leading regional committees to operationalize forthwith in their respective areas of concern a system by which they could swiftly link up with NDFP representatives in the JMC and other national organs.

Let us expand and invigorate mass actions and protests to expose, condemn and resist violations of human rights and interna-

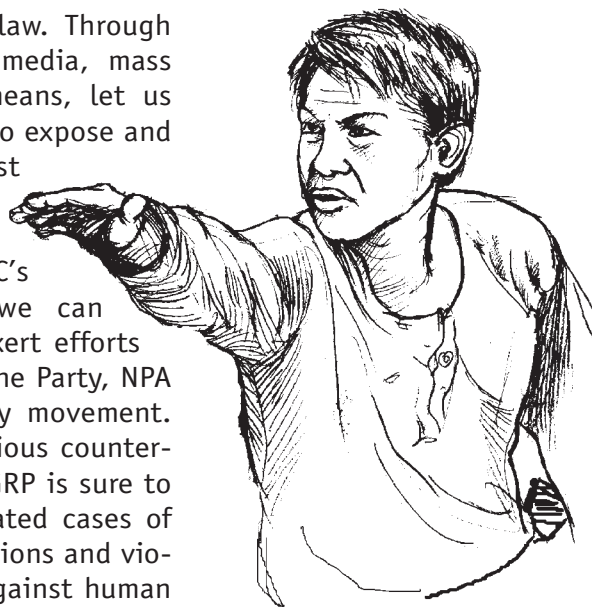
tional humanitarian law. Through the JMC, the mass media, mass actions and other means, let us redouble our efforts to expose and condemn the biggest and most rabid fascist thugs.

With the JMC's operationalization, we can expect the GRP to exert efforts to use it to slander the Party, NPA and the revolutionary movement. In collusion with various counter-revolutionaries, the GRP is sure to come up with fabricated cases of so-called terrorist actions and violations by the NPA against human rights and international humanitarian law.

They could, among others, manufacture issues on supposed political assassinations, extortion and the recruitment of minors by the NPA. We must immediately belie such charges. Such responsibility rests with the Party's leading cadres.

Simultaneously, we must also sharply and very carefully weigh the political implications of every tactical offensive and military action.

On the whole, cadres, officers



and Red fighters possess a high level of appreciation for political issues in the conduct of NPA military actions. Nonetheless, it is important to have stricter adherence to the standards set by the Party and the CARHRIHL and avoid weaknesses, immediately rectify any error on our part and strengthen our propaganda work. Party and NPA units must endeavor to explain and clarify matters not only before the mass base but to the general public.

In the final analysis, we can only benefit from the JMC by waging all-out resistance against the psyops schemes hatched by the US, Malacañang, the AFP and other counterrevolutionaries within and outside the JMC.

It is most important to wage tit-for-tat propaganda and respond to the enemy's anti-terrorist slanders and strengthen political support to pave the way for the intensification of our armed struggle.

This is urgently demanded by the very grave crisis now facing the reactionary system and by our program for advancing the armed revolution to an even higher level.

AB



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# A Red salute to Silvino "Ka Bino" Clamucha

In the afternoon of March 5, Comrade Silvino "Ka Bino" Clamucha, 51, spokesperson of the Arnulfo Ortiz Regional Command of the NPA-Central Visayas was killed. Martyred with him was fellow Red fighter Ka Kardo. They died in a firefight between guerrillas of the Chocolate Hills Command and elements of the Philippine Army 302nd Infantry Brigade in Barangay Liboron, Catigbian, Bohol.

**Two decades of brilliant struggle.** For almost two decades, Ka Bino devoted his talents and courage to serving the Filipino people.

Coming from a lower petty bourgeois family, he was born in Barangay Del Carmen Norte, Balilihan, Bohol and raised to be loving and helpful to others.

He was first exposed to progressive ideas when he became involved in anti-dictatorship activities by the then anti-Marcos PDP-Laban party in Davao del Norte in 1982. In 1984, he was recruited into the underground movement and became a full-time activist in the legal democratic movement. He joined the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1988.

As a cadre, he was assigned to arouse, organize and mobilize stevedores, vendors and drivers in Tagbilaran City and its environs. He was among those who played a big role in the successful dockworkers' strikes at that time. He also helped in gaining support from the middle forces for the struggles of the basic masses. He helped organize peasants in Balilihan along with launching protest actions against pro-Marcos politicians in their

locality. When EDSA I took place in 1986, Ka Bino led a protest rally of hundreds of Balilihan residents against the mayor appointed by the new Aquino government.

When he became a member of the Bohol Party Committee, he was assigned in 1990 to the countryside to perform tasks and assume responsibilities as secretary of various Party sections.

He played a big role in the all-sided resurgence of the revolutionary movement in the region with the beginning of the Second Great Rectification Movement.

He was sent in the latter part of 1992 to the guerrilla front in north-central Cebu to propagate the rectification movement. In mid-1995, he became a delegate to the Second Regional Party Conference and was elected a regular member of the Regional Committee. He was immediately assigned to lead revolutionary work in the urban areas of Cebu.

## **Accomplishing two key tasks.**

During this period, Ka Bino was able to accomplish the two key tasks for the all-sided advance of revolutionary work in the region. First, he united all Party organs in the urban areas on what the role of the revolutionary forces in cities and towns and in the whole of Central Visayas should be. Second, he ensured the deployment of a relatively sizeable number of cadres and mass activists to the countryside, especially those from the educated youth and the middle forces.



In 1998, Ka Bino was elected to the Executive Committee as deputy secretary of the Central Visayas Regional Party Committee (CenVis RPC). He was also designated as spokesperson of the Arnulfo Ortiz Regional Operational Command of the NPA.

The four guerrilla fronts in Bohol and Cebu achieved dramatic advances in this period.

Ka Bino played a big role in planning and executing the daring and now famous attack on the 7th Regional Mobile Group-Combat Support Company headquarters in Barangay Rizal, Batuan on June



## AFP intrigues belied

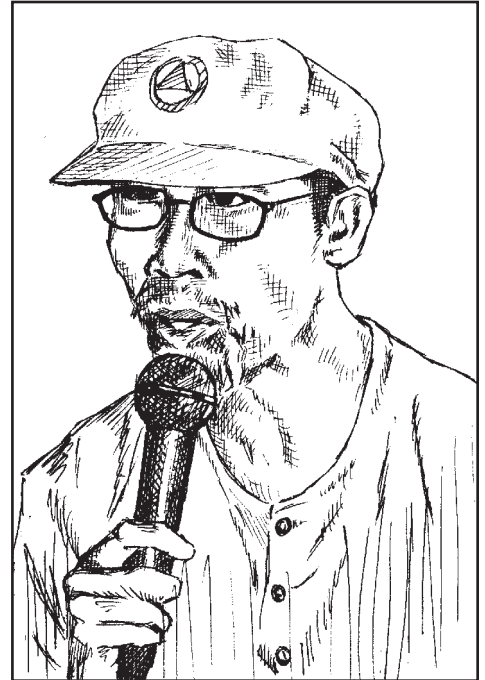
**A** big lie! Thus declared NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge “Ka Oris” Madlos on the bunch of black propaganda being propagated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). In its desperate attempt to cover up the gains of the New People’s Army (NPA) and the AFP’s isolation from the people due to its rampant violations of human rights, the AFP has resorted to unleashing a mixture of half-truths and speculation, if not outrightly fabricated stories:

►The AFP reported on April 4 that two NPA guerrillas were killed in an encounter between the NPA and the 9th IB in Lantad,

Balingasag, Misamis Oriental. Upon investigation, it turned out that two CAFGU elements were killed and five soldiers of the 9th IB were wounded. The NPA was even able to seize an M14 from them.

►The NPA allegedly held up on April 2 a group led by ex-Mayor Orquina in Barangay Hinatigan, Bakwang, Surigao del Norte. Their escort was killed and all their firearms and personal belongings taken. But later, it was revealed that the real perpetrators were local bandits with contacts to the military, one of them SPO2 Allan Ebol.

►The NPA is said to be suffering



*Jorge “Ka Oris” Madlos*

11, 1999. By applying a ruse, the NPA was able to seize 60 high-powered rifles, a 60-mm mortar, an M60 light machine gun, more than 30 short arms and other military equipment. The raid holds the national record of having yielded the second biggest number of firearms in a single military action since the Second Great Rectification Movement.

In early 2000, Ka Bino headed the Chocolate Hills Command and personally supervised the planning and execution of another victorious tactical offensive. On March 2, after falling for a ruse, six Special Forces and four CAFGU elements were killed in an ambush in Barangay Sta. Catalina, Sagbayan. In 2001, Ka Bino oversaw all guerrilla fronts in the island, first as head of the Bohol Area Command Conference and later, as head of the Bohol Island Conference.

Ka Bino was among those who successfully thwarted the counter-

revolutionary campaign launched by the AFP’s Task Group Bohol from September 1999 to May 2000 and by the 301st Brigade from June 2000 to March 2001.

**Sustained development.** Under Ka Bino’s leadership, the revolutionary mass base continued to develop in Bohol. More than half of all barrios on the island are covered by various guerrilla fronts. In these barrios, organs of political power are built alongside organizations of peasants, women and youth as well as support groups.

To advance the antifeudal struggle and alleviate poverty in the countryside, Ka Bino and his comrades led the implementation of the minimum program of agrarian revolution.

Aside from reducing land rent and usury, raising farm workers’ wages and prices of agricultural products and promoting projects to supplement incomes, health and sanitation programs are advanced

as well as mass campaigns against antipeasant presidential proclamations, palm plantations and the so-called mega projects and poverty alleviation programs funded by imperialists.

**Salute!** The CenVis RPC also helped develop armed struggle in nearby islands. Ka Bino led the planning and execution of a victorious tactical offensive in Mahaplag, Leyte on September 20, 2002. Six Scout Ranger troops were killed in this firefight.

Some months before he was killed, Ka Bino led the establishment of another guerrilla front in Central Visayas.

“He is truly one of the finest products of this generation,” hailed the CenVis RPC, the Arnulfo Ortiz Regional Operational Command and the entire revolutionary movement in the Visayas and the archipelago.

The Filipino people salute him! **AB**





from low morale. And proof of this, said the military, is the surrender of some 50 rebels in Agusan and Surigao del Norte. The truth: These were fake surrenderees—a mixture of fake NPA guerrillas and local bandits repeatedly made to surrender by the 4th ID. Military officials make a killing out of this big racket by raking in “peace and order” and “rebel returnee” funds.

►The military’s paid propagandists once again drooled over news that six Red fighters were killed in an encounter with the 36th IB in Barangay Awaw, Monkayo, Compostela Valley on March 30.

What the 36th IB actually encountered was an AFP-organized and -funded fanatical group known as the Remnants of the Family of God. One soldier and six armed cultists were killed and a CAFGU element wounded in this firefight.

►AFP troops attacked an NPA group in Barangay Salug, Agusan del Sur, supposedly seizing four firearms. The truth is that a Philippine Army asset stole the firearms of local residents. No firefight took place.

►“They’re killing each other...,” shouted the military. Six Red fighters were supposedly killed in a misencounter between two NPA units in March. Upon investigation, no such incident took place along the La Paz, Agusan del Sur boundary mentioned.

►The AFP reportedly killed eight Red fighters in an encounter in Alegria, Surigao del Norte on March 11, 2004. The truth is that three Red fighters were killed, and not eight as reported by the military. **AB**

## The struggle for land goes on in Hacienda Luisita

**I**t has been nearly five decades since the Cojuangco family first promised that Hacienda Luisita shall be distributed to its farmworkers. Not a single farmworker has benefited from the promise so far. Instead, they are slowly being deprived not only of the land they have tilled for decades but also of their residential lots. They are slowly being driven out of the hacienda to give way to unproductive land speculation and large-scale land-use conversion.

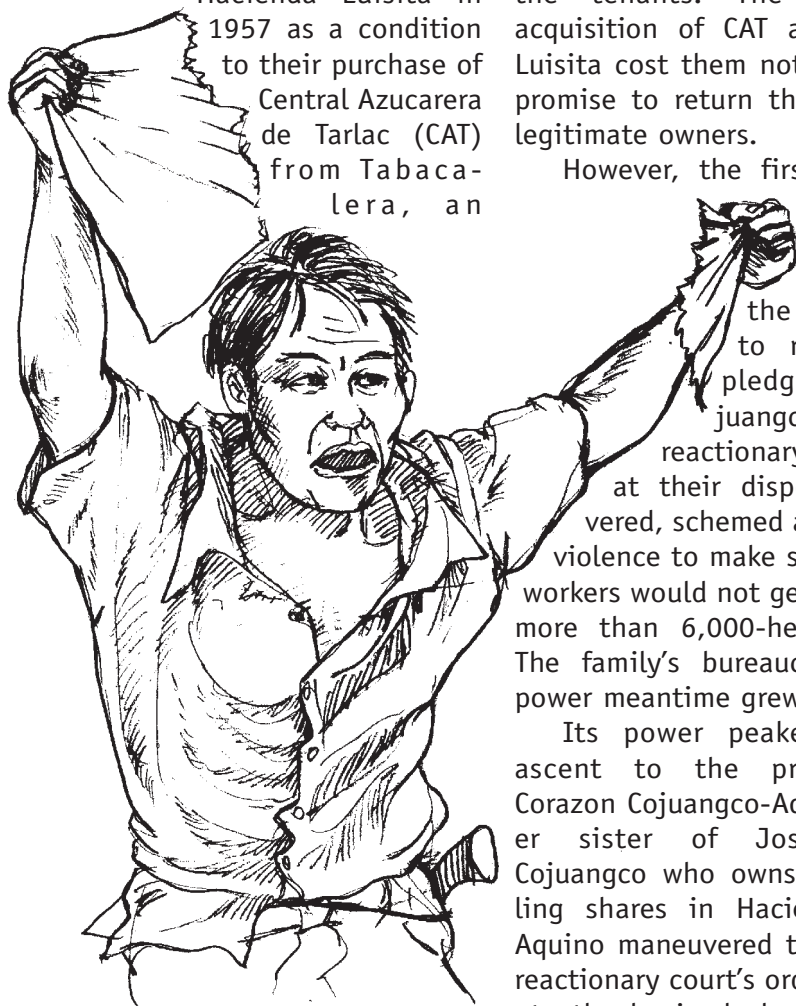
The Cojuangco family acquired Hacienda Luisita in 1957 as a condition to their purchase of Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) from Tabacalera, an

American company. To enable the Cojuangcos to pay for CAT, they obtained a loan from an American bank which the reactionary government guaranteed on the condition that “Hacienda Luisita shall be distributed to small farmers in line with the Administration’s social justice program.”

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) also granted a P7-million loan to the family for the separate purchase of the hacienda on condition that the estate shall be subdivided among the tenants. The Cojuangcos’ acquisition of CAT and Hacienda Luisita cost them nothing but the promise to return the land to its legitimate owners.

However, the first generation of farmworkers failed to prevail on the Cojuangcos to redeem their pledge. The Cojuangcos, with the reactionary government at their disposal, maneuvered, schemed and employed violence to make sure the farmworkers would not get hold of the more than 6,000-hectare estate. The family’s bureaucrat-capitalist power meantime grew stronger.

Its power peaked with the ascent to the presidency of Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino, younger sister of Jose “Peping” Cojuangco who owns the controlling shares in Hacienda Luisita. Aquino maneuvered to reverse the reactionary court’s order to distribute the hacienda land. Under her





regime, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was enacted. The CARP in turn gave rise to the stock-transfer scheme which allowed landlords to set the value of land and convert it to shares of stock.

The scheme allows landlords to distribute shares of stock instead of land to farmworkers. To make sure that they acquire the controlling shares, landlords usually undervalue the land and overvalue the other means of production directly under their control.

### **Stock distribution option**

The stock-transfer scheme, known as the Stock Distribution Option (SDO) in Hacienda Luisita, has been implemented there since 1989. Under the SDO, the Cojuangcos have not only managed to evade their decades-old responsibility but have also gotten rid of all legal obstacles to their ownership of the hacienda. It has undermined the position of the farmworkers as the land's legitimate owners and has been slowly eliminating their right to possess it.

The SDO does not prohibit the sale of land by its owners. Using its power in the local government, the Cojuangco family had 3,290 hectares or almost 67% of the entire hacienda reclassified as lands subject to land-use conversion. Five hundred hectares were sold immediately to Itutsu and Hasana, two Japanese corporations. Several hundred hectares have also been set aside for the construction of part of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project, which was set for construction as early as 2003.

To prevent the proceeds from land sales from accruing to the

farmworkers, the Cojuangco family transfers HLI's capital to other corporations owned by their clan. The Cojuangcos first sell the lands to their other companies at low prices before selling them to foreign corporations at higher prices. For example, in 1996, HLI ceded 300 hectares to Centenary Holdings Incorporated (CHI), another Cojuangco-owned company, in exchange for P12 million worth of its stocks. In 1998, CHI sold the same 300 hectares for P750 million! In 2001, CHI registered net profits of over P125 million, while HLI, the original owners of the land, posted only P14 million in earnings. The CHI's net earnings were used for the salaries of the company's top officials and for other "general expenses."

The Cojuangco family has complete control over the implementation of the SDO scheme. It has complete control over HLI's Board of Directors not only due to its control over the majority of HLI's stocks. For the past 14 years, the Cojuangcos have also controlled the farmworkers and the supervisors' elected representatives who sit on the Board and who collude with the Cojuangcos in their maneuverings and deceptive schemes.

### **Resistance in the Hacienda**

In the face of all this, the farmworkers have no other choice but to resist their gradual eviction from their lands. In September 2003, they expressed their disgust over the SDO scheme when they boycotted the election of their representatives in the Board of Directors of HLI. They have repudiated the yellow leaders who have long colluded with the Cojuangco

family, and asserted their legitimate rights as owners of the hacienda lands.

Prior to this, the farmworkers were in solidarity with the CAT workers' strike in February 2003. Together with opposing the SDO scheme, they also opposed the reduction of man-days, the denial of benefits, the large-scale land-use conversion of the hacienda and the militarization of their communities. They demanded the immediate abrogation of the SDO scheme and urged government agencies to implement previous decrees and legal agreements on the distribution of hacienda lands.

The struggle between the Cojuangco family and the farmworkers is intensifying. In order for the people within the hacienda to effectively resist the worsening deception and acts of violence perpetrated by the Cojuangco family, they must ensure the strengthening of their organizations and the expansion of their alliances both within and outside the hacienda.

The Cojuangcos are unable to use their bureaucrat-capitalist power effectively at all times. The people may take advantage of the conflicts inherent among the reactionaries and the family's weak points, especially during times when their clan is not part of the ruling clique.

Nevertheless, as long as the semifeudal order that perpetuates the Cojuangco family and other big landlords is not overthrown, tenants and poor peasants will all continue to be denied their land. Only the national-democratic revolution through protracted people's war can effectively resolve the land problem of the peasantry. ■



# A new stage in the Iraqi struggle

**W**hen American troops captured former Iraqi Pres. Saddam Hussein in December 2003, the US was convinced Iraqi resistance would dwindle. Instead, the Iraqi armed struggle against the occupation has escalated.

Since April this year, the US-led occupying coalition has suffered the worst attacks by the militant Iraqi people. More than 80 US soldiers have been killed in Iraqi offensives this month, bringing to 700 the number of Americans killed since the US occupied the country in March 2003.

## **Growing patriotic solidarity.**

An armed uprising by Iraqi Shi'ites erupted on April 4.

The Arab Shi'ite majority were among the forces who readily expressed their opposition to the US invasion of Iraq. For some time, they called for the expulsion of the US forces and the dissolution of the puppet Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) through relatively peaceful marches and protest actions in Baghdad and other cities. Their organized resistance is led by the Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Sadr proclaimed an independent Iraqi government in October 2003 after American troops indiscriminately shot at a Shi'ite crowd, leaving two Iraqis dead. The last straw came on March 28 when the US ordered the closure of a newspaper controlled by Sadr's group for its condemnation of the invaders. Five days later, Sadr called on his followers to launch armed assaults on the occupation forces.

Even before the Shi'ite upris-

ing, various patriotic forces had been waging a widespread guerrilla movement in Iraq. They were mostly from the Arab Sunni ethnic-religious group which comprises around 20% of the population. The armed resistance now covers most of Iraq with the participation of the Shi'ites, who comprise over 60% of the Iraqi people.

Since the start of the occupation, the US has tried to accentuate differences between Shi'ites and the Sunnis to divide the Iraqi people and undermine their fighting capacity.

Instead, Iraqis are now forging a broader and stronger unity that sets aside ethnic and religious differences and signals a new stage in their struggle for national liberation. The erstwhile opposing Sunnis and Shi'ites now worship together in Iraqi mosques. In Fallujah and other predominantly Sunni cities, people welcome Sadr's group and hail them as heroes.

The US has launched ruthless military operations in response to the growing Iraqi resistance. Amid such operations, even some officials of the IGC could no longer keep silent. "This is genocide!" reacted Ghazi Ajil al-Yawer, a member of the puppet council, to US actions in Fallujah last week that killed up to 450 Iraqis and injured around 1,000.

The US' actions also prompted the resignation of the IGC's human rights minister and a member of its rotating presidency.

The US and the IGC could not trust even the puppet government's military and police recruits who for several times have refused

to fight fellow Iraqis. Last week, for instance, troops of the puppet Iraqi Armed Forces refused to join and support the US Marines in operations to quell the Shi'ite uprising.

**US-led coalition shaken.** The escalating Iraqi resistance is now upsetting the US-led coalition. In coalition member-countries, there is growing opposition to the war and calls for the pullout of their contingents in Iraq.

The resistance is made even more intense by the series of abductions by Iraqi forces of foreigners from coalition member countries. At least 15 foreigners are believed to be held by the Iraqis demanding the withdrawal of occupation forces in exchange for the release of the captives.

Coalition member-countries are now backing out from their commitments one after another. In the coming weeks, Kazakhstan's troops are pulling out of Iraq. Spain started the process of withdrawing its contingent on April 19. Honduras and Nicaragua have likewise decided to pull out.

All the other governments supporting the US war on Iraq are under intense pressure from their people who oppose the occupation.

In any case, the occupying coalition is further being exposed for what it is—a paper tiger. If the US and its allies insist on staying longer in Iraq despite continuing losses in battle and vehement international and domestic protests and pressure, they will be mired in a worsening defensive position that will lead to certain defeat.

AB



## Sharon Plan, a treacherous ploy

**U**nder direct US approval and support, Israel's Sharon regime is pulling off another scheme to perpetuate Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

Under the so-called Sharon Plan, Israel will voluntarily withdraw its settlements in the Gaza Strip in exchange for the expansion and permanent occupation of six settlement blocks covering nearly half of the West Bank. The plan further rules out the right of return of Palestinians driven out in 1948 and 1967.

The Sharon Plan flatly violates provisions of international law which recognize the Palestinian refugees' right of return. It contravenes even the 2003 US "roadmap" ploy supposedly for peace between Israel and Palestine. The "roadmap" implicitly prohibits Israeli expansion and provides for the eventual pullout of all Israeli settlements from Palestinian territories.

The Sharon Plan is but one of the latest maneuvers by Israel and the US. Earlier, the two countries bluntly ignored calls to dismantle "security barriers" built by Israel inside Palestine. Israel also intensified its attacks on Palestine and the assassination of key personalities leading the struggle against the occupation. On March 22, Israeli forces killed Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the armed Palestinian group Hamas which is actively fighting Israeli occupation. On April 17, Israeli also killed Abdel Aziz Rantissi, Yassin's successor.

US and Israeli officials have been celebrating and congratulating themselves for their murder of Hamas leaders which they consider as major achievements. Palestinians and other Arabs, democratic and progressive forces, and most of the world's nations have expressed strong indignation over the incidents.

AB

## AFP takes Karapatan members hostage

THE military detained 61 members of human rights group Tanggol Karapatan-Southern Tagalog (Karapatan-ST) inside a Philippine Independent Church chapel in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro on April 16, maliciously accusing them of harboring a wounded Red fighter inside the church.

The group had just arrived from a fact-finding mission in nearby Bongabong town where a seven-year-old child was reported killed by soldiers after an encounter between the military and the NPA a few days earlier. Edwin Macarinas, a local coordinator of the party-list group Anakpawis, was also reported abducted in the area and later found dead nearby.

The group from Karapatan-ST were resting and spending the night in the church when they were surrounded by 20 masked military men armed with high powered rifles at around 4:00 in the morning. The soldiers claimed that they were looking for a wounded NPA fighter.

The town's police chief was sent by the military inside the church but he failed to find the alleged Red fighter. The Karapatan members were nonetheless prevented from leaving the chapel and even verbally abused by the military. They were released only at around 4:00 p.m. when the provincial governor intervened and press people arrived.

## KAGUMA turns 33

REVOLUTIONARY school teachers celebrated on March 28 the 33rd anniversary of KAGUMA (Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan) in a lightning rally in Manila.

KAGUMA is one of the NDF's 16 allied organizations. It was founded in 1971 as a legal organization of teachers in several colleges and elementary schools in Metro Manila. The mass organization went underground when Marcos declared martial law on September 21, 1972. Many of its members joined the New People's Army and not a few of them where arrested, tortured and killed by the military. Meanwhile, those among them who continued to teach continued to organize teachers in the cities and communities.

According to Ka Cesar Magturo, KAGUMA national chairperson, and Ka Gary, a member of its secretariat, the organization fulfills its commitment to revolutionary education by undertaking literacy and numeracy campaigns in the territories of the revolutionary movement. In such campaigns, the members share their skills in teaching the science and causes of the revolution along with gathering material support for the armed struggle. They also constantly mobilize their fellow teachers to fight for their sectoral interests and welfare.

Due to errors and disorientation, many members of the organization dropped out of the movement in the 1980s. But the organization has since recovered, thanks to the Second Great Rectification Movement. Based on the roster drawn by its Third Congress held in a guerrilla zone in Central Luzon in 2003, KAGUMA now has more than 1,000 members all over the country.

In its anniversary statement, KAGUMA paid tribute to its martyrs who include among others, Jessica Sales, Evelyn Pacheco, Deodoro Buatis, Manuel Guianga Ola, Rafael Quejada, Luz Pagobo, Jun Geronimo, Rey Rubin, Nona Santaclara, July Mendoza, Ka Gabby Gaveria and Ka Toy.